

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1951



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# Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—47,011 acres.  
Population (estimated)—4,470.  
Number of inhabited houses—1,511.  
Rateable Value—£19,228.  
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate—£79.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Farming is the main occupation of the district, but the salmon fishing provides a livelihood for a considerable number of people along the Tweed from Berwick to Cornhill. In the eastern side of the district, coal mining at the Blackhill Colliery provides employment for a few hundred workers.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total. Male. Female.			
Live Births	{ Legitimate	70	40	30	} Birthrate per 1000 Population—16.77
	{ Illegitimate	5	4	1	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	1	0	1	} Rate per 1000 Population—.22
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Deaths	... ..	74	36	38	{ Rate per 1000 Population—16.55

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.

„ „ other Puerperal causes—Nil.

This shows an increase of 22 births and 14 deaths on 1950.

Death Rate of Infants under one year—

All Infants (per 1000 live births) 26.6.

Legitimate Infants (per 1000 legitimate live births)—26.6.

Illegitimate Infants—Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—13.

„ „ Measles—Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough—Nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea—Nil.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer (part-time) ..... Herbert F. Park, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Norham.  
Sanitary Inspector ..... N. Senior, M.S.I.A., East Ord.  
Laboratory Facilities ..... County Laboratory, Newcastle.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—These are provided under the National Health Service—chiefly from the Berwick Depot. Sitting cars are also available, and the service has been quite satisfactory.

**Nursing.**—Home nursing services are provided under the National Health Service. The District Nurses for the area are resident at Norham, Scremerston, Cornhill and Berwick.

**Hospitals.**—There are no hospitals in the district. Those which serve the area are :—Berwick Infirmary (General), Marshall Meadows (Infectious), and Castle Hills (Maternity).

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

**Water.**—This continues to present difficulties in some parts of the district. The supply to Norham and Horncliffe areas from Thornton is adequate, and the Council are installing a new electric pump to keep this supply up to standard.

**Cornhill.**—Here the Council have decided to take over and develop the existing supply. This is urgently needed to promote the building of two dozen Council houses.

**Holy Island.**—Here the position is unchanged. Boring on the Island has been in progress, but is temporarily suspended. The question of supplies from the mainland is definitely ruled out.

**Scremerston and Ord.**—In this area arrangements have been concluded for supplies to be taken from the Berwick Borough system. When this has been completed the area will be fully supplied.

**Fenwick.**—The present supply is to be supplemented by a new borehole at Kylvoe.

**Norham Mains.**—Here arrangements are being made to take a supply from the Thornton system and supply the new farm cottages in course of erection. Other areas, such as Castle Heaton, Riffington, Twizell and Duddo, have some difficulty, but there has been no change during the year.

No treatment is carried out for the existing supplies.

**Drainage and Sewage.**—There have been no major changes. The sewage system at Scremerston has not been satisfactory, and is in process of being improved. A new scheme for the handling and disposal of the sewage from East Ord has been prepared and will be carried out as soon as possible.



**Scavenging.**—The present system of collection of household refuse by waggon is carried on quite satisfactorily and disposed of into various tips in the district. These are supervised and kept in proper order.

**Rivers and Streams.**—There is no gross pollution of streams in the area. The effluent from East Ord into the Tweed was the cause of complaint during the summer, but this is already being rectified as mentioned above.

#### PARISHES WITH PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Number of Houses	Houses with W.C.s	Houses with Baths	Houses with Standpipe supply only
Norham ...	240	126	112	4
Norham Mains...	19	3	3	16
Horncliffe ...	80	70	59	10
Loanend ...	24	8	8	13
Shoresdean ...	44	30	30	14
Duddo ...	31	28	28	3
Felkington ...	16	16	16	0
Thornton ...	29	18	18	2
Grindon ...	18	2	2	12
Longridge ...	15	6	2	8
Kyloe ...	161	65	49	91
Ancroft ...	353	150	147	180
Holy Island ...	106	22	14	103
Twizel ...	45	13	14	22
Ord ...	129	75	71	37
Cornhill ...	139	37	24	88
Totals ...	1449	669	597	603

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	67	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	15	—	—
Cerebral Fever ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—

**Food Poisoning.**—No cases were notified during the year

**TUBERCULOSIS**

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

*H. J. Park*

M.O.H

Cross House,  
Norham-on-Tweed.  
September, 1952.

# Annual Report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1951

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1938, I herewith submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

## NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

### Public Health Act, 1936.

Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	75
Part Three. Nuisances and Offensive Trades	...	...	14
Part Four. Water Supplies	...	...	90
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	...	...	10
Total Visits, etc.	...	...	189

### Housing Act, 1936.

Part Two. Inspection of Insanitary Houses	...	...	9
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### Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	5
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### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Visits in connection with infestations and administration	...	...	...	...	...	50
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### Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

Visits in connection with the storage of petrol	...	...	...	...	12
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Total	...	...	...	265
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### Other Visits and Inspections.

(1) Council House Repairs	...	...	...	121
(2) Tradesmen re above	...	...	...	35
(3) Control of Civil Building	...	...	...	110
(4) Town and Country Planning Act, 1947	...	...	...	61
(5) Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc.	...	...	...	51
Total	...	...	...	378

Total Visits, Inspections, Interviews, etc.	...	...	643
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**Number of Notices served during the Year.**

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

**Result of Service of such Notices.**

Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	11
Sanitary Conveniences — Repair or pro-				
vision of W.C.s	...	...	...	24

**Food Condemned.**

Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	33 lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.

**Samples for Analysis.**

	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory
Water—Chemical	...	3	3
Bacteriological	14	10	4

**COMMENTARY.**

**Scavenging.**—Refuse collection and disposal is maintained as in previous years. A new collection vehicle is required, as the Bedford is now requiring major repairs, with a consequent wastage of working time. A new refuse disposal tip will be needed in 12 months' time for the Norham area.

**Water Supplies.**—Throughout the area, with consumption greater than ever, the Council-owned undertakings are severely taxed during the dry season.

**Holy Island.**—The borehole on the Island has now been drilled and is under observation at the moment. Its productive capacity is controlled at 1,250 gallons an hour, as the extraction of a greater quantity might be disastrous to the scheme. In this case it is difficult to see how it can furnish an abundant supply of water to the Island at the height of the summer when there are as many as a thousand people resident on the Island.

**Thornton.**—This supply is working reasonably well, owing in the main to a capable water pumping attendant, but new pumping equipment, able to pump 5,000 gallons per hour, is sorely needed.

**Cornhill.**—The District Council short-term policy of obtaining the Estate supply at Cornhill as a temporary expedient, until such time as the Glendale Regional Scheme is in operation, appears to be the only solution to implementing new housing so very urgently needed in this locality.

**Scremerston.**—The delivery of 4-inch water pipes is now the only obstacle to adequately watering this mining village.

**Building Licences.**—Throughout the year 30 applications for building licences were received, and all were approved.

**Plans.**—Forty-two plans were deposited with the District Council, and all were subsequently approved

**Disinfection.**—All premises where infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Senior'.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

34, Eastern Lane,  
Berwick-upon-Tweed.  
September, 1952.



